

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 H-02 /044 W

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P R 300805Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6315

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2348

DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR CUSTOMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TQ, KS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST-TEXTILE QUOTA PROBLEM

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MR. KEN DFAULT (TEL. 617-678-3796) OF FALL RIVER OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN MARGARET HECKLER ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENT TEXTILE IMPORTER ANDERSON-LITTLE CO., A MASSACHUSETTS SUBSIDIARY OF RICHMAN BROS., 1600 EAST 55TH STREET, CLEVELAND, OHIO. EMBOFFS HAVE REQUESTED THAT CONGRESSWOMAN HECKLER'S OFFICE CABLE DETAILS OF PROBLEM THROUGH DEPARTMENT.

2. FYI - HANCHANG TEXTILE INDUSTRY CO., LTD., A MAJOR MANUFACTURER AND EXPORTER, EVIDENTLY SHIPPED 72 CARTONS OF GOLF JACKETS TO ANDERSON-LITTLE OF FALL RIVER SIX MONTHS AGO UNDER ROK ISSUED QUOTA ALLOCATION (SO CALLED "VISA"). JACKETS ARE 35 PERCENT COTTON AND 65 PERCENT POLYESTER AND FALL UNDER HARD-PRESSED QUOTA CATEGORY 229. ACCORDING TO MR. DFAULT, THE "VISA" HAS BEEN LOST AND U.S. CUSTOMS HAS DENIED ENTRY. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF REQUEST IS THAT EMBASSY ASK ROK MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) TO
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ISSUE DUPLICATE DOCUMENTATION.

3. INFORMAL EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT "VISA" IS STAMPED UPON ORIGINAL INVOICE BY ROK AUTHORITY. CLAIMS OF "LOSS" ARE REGARDED AS THE ARCHTYPICAL PLOY FOR "CHEATING" THE QUOTA SYSTEM AND ROKG CANNOT IN GOOD FAITH ISSUE DUPLICATE "VISAS" WITHOUT VIOLATING US-ROK TEXTILE AGREEMENT, AND IN FACT, MCI WILL NOT REISSUE "VISAS" UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. NO QUOTAS ARE AVAILABLE AND COMPANY CANNOT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL QUOTA ALLOCATION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN TOTAL LOSS OF EARNINGS ON 72 CARTONS OF JACKETS. END FYI.

4. DEPARTMENT AT ITS DISCRETION MAY DRAW UPON THE ABOVE IN RESPONSE IF FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED FROM CONGRESSWOMAN HECKLER'S OFFICE, BUT IT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NO RPT NO EFFECTIVE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN BY EMBASSY IN THIS MATTER. BEST ADVICE IS FOR BUYER TO RETRACE DOCUMENTATION THROUGH BANK WHICH HANDLED IMPORT.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 MAR 1976
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